

(b) staining the sample with a fluorescent dye for producing a difference in intensity of fluorescence among the leukocytic cells, the erythroid cells, and the lipid particles;

(2) introducing the resulting sample to a flow cytometer to detect at least one kind of scattered light and at least one kind of fluorescence;

(3) classifying the lipid particles, the leukocytic cells and the erythroid cells by the difference in the intensities of their fluorescence and their scattered light; and

(4) obtaining a count of the leukocytic cells and erythroid cells classified in the step of (3).

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CONT.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

classifying erythroid cells into at least two erythroid cell groups according to maturity of each of the erythroid cells, and obtaining a count of cells in each of the erythroid cell groups by the difference in the intensities of the fluorescence and the scattered light from the at least two erythroid cell groups; and

calculating the ratio of the classified cells in each of the erythroid cell groups to the total erythroid cell count.

3. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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classifying lymphocytes and monocytes in the leukocytic cells and obtaining a lymphocyte count and a monocyte count; and

calculating a myeloid cell count by deducting the obtained lymphocyte count and the obtained monocyte count from the leukocytic cell count; and

calculating the ratio of the erythroid cells to myeloid cells from the obtained myeloid cell count and erythroid cell count.
